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PelhamNEWS



Priceless keepsakes

BERND FRANKZ/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Antiques appraiser Jon Jouprien, right, points out the characteristics of a circa-1820s officer's sword to Betti Michael. See more on page 3



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LOCAL NEWS

Region's first case of West Nile confirmed for 2016

DOM FRASER
Postmedia Network

A mosquito pool collected in Grimsby recently tested positive for West Nile virus.

However, a human case in Niagara of the potentially but rarely-fatal virus has not yet been reported this summer.

"We do have our first positive pool in Grimsby," Peter Jekel, manager of environmental health for Niagara Region's public health

department, said last Friday.

That positive test came from one of 21 traps set across the region in unidentified locations.

"We collect samples and they are analyzed by a laboratory for speculation and virus detection, and that process takes approximately one week to happen," Jekel said.

"It turned out it was indeed positive in this (Grimsby) circumstance,"

he said.

That positive sample was collected last week.

West Nile virus — which first migrated to Ontario in 2002 — is spread to humans by mosquitoes that have fed on the blood of infected birds.

In the vast majority of cases, symptoms are relatively mild and can include fever, headaches, nausea and rashes.

Mild cases may involve flu-like symptoms, a rash or

swollen lymph glands.

More serious infections can lead to potentially fatal conditions such as inflammation of the brain or the lining of the brain or spinal cord.

The illness can also cause a loss of limb function.

In 2002, there were 18 confirmed cases in Niagara, by far an all-time high. There have been no confirmed human cases this year.

Last year, Niagara had

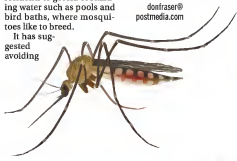
two human cases of West Nile virus and three infected mosquito pools. There were no reported human infections in the region in 2014.

The Region has advised residents to get rid of standing water such as pools and bird baths, where mosquitoes like to breed.

It has suggested avoiding

mosquito-infested areas, wearing long sleeves and pants, repairing damaged doors and window screens and using insect repellent containing DEET.

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LOCAL NEWS

Former church deemed worth saving

BERND FRANKE
Postmedia Network

Dollar signs in people's eyes have been known to disappear quickly after Jon Jouppein puts in his two cents.

While the antiques appraiser doesn't like to dash someone's dream, he prefers that to giving people false hope that an old lamp discovered in a basement is a hidden treasure potentially worth thousands of dollars at auction.

"I never lie to people, I give it to them straight, but it's deflating," Jouppein said during a break last Saturday at a fundraising appraisal session at the former St. Paul's Anglican Church in Port Robinson.

After breaking the bad news in an appraisal, he endeavours to help people see that while they don't have a Ming vase, what they do have need not necessarily be an empty vessel, devoid of any worth.

"I try to let people down gently. I try to get them to appreciate what they do have."

A St. Catharines native now living in Niagara Falls, where he operates Heritage Resource Consultant Inc., Jouppein finds himself on the receiving end of plenty of smiles in his line of work.

"Most people have been very pleased. They pick up things at garage sales and flea markets and they're surprised by how much it's worth," he said. "These items were picked up by people with a keen eye."

Much like real estate agents, who base ask-

ing prices on what similar houses in the same neighbourhood sold for, appraisers assess the market value of antiques on past sales. Jouppein has more than 6,000 catalogues from auctions dating back 30 years that he can consult.

It's been Jouppein's experience that seeking an appraisal of an antique, by definition of the trade any longer, takes 100 years or order, isn't always about money.

"A lot of people will come with something like a grandfather's sword, because they want to know something about it," he said. "They're not interested in money."

"They want to know their family's history. It's been lost."

Jouppein, who is certified by Revenue Canada to appraise donations of antiques that are eligible for tax deductions, volunteered his expertise last Saturday to help the non-profit Friends of St. Paul raise money for restoration of the 182-year-old church. He appraised about 50 items and waived his usual fee in return for donations of \$5 each.

Jouppein, who is a member of Friends of St. Paul, and Betti Michael, who spearheaded a campaign to acquire the property from the Anglican Diocese of Niagara, broke the building can become an "active classroom" promoting history and heritage once the restoration is completed.

"This can become a heritage hall with beautiful exhibits," said Michael, who agreed to take over management of the adja-

cent cemetery from the City of Thorold as part of the agreements to save the building from the wrecker's ball.

Jouppein joined the campaign because he didn't want St. Paul, the last of the four churches that served the once-thriving terminus of the original Welland Canal, to suffer the same fate as Port Robinson when it lost its bridge and became a divided community.

"Port Robinson is a dead-end street now, but in the

19th century it was a strategic point on the supply line in Upper Canada."

At one point, the community had more doctors per capita than any centre in Upper Canada.

"Port Robinson was a very wealthy community," Jouppein said. "It was more expensive to buy a pane of glass here than one shipped from Europe, so everything that went west had to go through here."

Bfranke@postmedia.ca

Latin Grammy winner coming to Fonthill bandshell

BERND FRANKE
Postmedia Network

Latin soul will be added to the sounds of summer this week when the Thursday Night Concerts series at the Fonthill bandshell in Pelham's Peace Park presents Alex Cuba.

Cuba, the stage name for Alex Puentes, has won four Latin Grammy awards and two Juno awards as a singer-songwriter since immigrating to Canada from his native Cuba in 1999.

Cuba, who sings in Spanish and English and lives in Smithers, B.C., won the Juno for world music album of the year for each of his first two albums: *Humo Del Tabaco* in 2006 and *Agua Del Pozo* in 2008.

His Latin Grammy wins were in 2010, for best new artist; 2012, *Torna Mi Vida*, best tropical song; 2013, *Eres Tu*, best short-form music video; and in 2015, *Healer*, best singer-songwriter album.

BANDSHELL on page 12

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GRANT
LAFLECHE

I'm not mad at you, Niagara. I am just disappointed.

I think that is the right line to use. I don't have kids, and I've never had to give "the talk" to anyone before, so I am winging it here. I mean, what do you say to a region that is behaving like hormonally-driven, irresponsible teenagers?

Honestly, this is not a conversation I thought we would have to have in 2016. But, as Jawaharlal Nehru said, facts are facts and they do not disappear on account of your likes. And these facts cannot be ignored.

Last week, Niagara's public health department tweeted out some local statistics on sexually transmitted diseases. Specifically, the agency said in the past two years Niagara's gonorrhoea rate has increased by a staggering 90 per cent.

Given that I went to high school in the late 1960s, I can't say that at a time when there was a major push to get teenagers to understand safer sex and

importance of using condoms, this statistic seemed rather puzzling. After all this time, thought I, people would have enough common sense not put themselves at needless risk.

Then again, we are living in a world where a mad real-estate tycoon is a serious contender for president of the United States. So I shouldn't take anything for granted.

I called up the public health department to find out what is behind that massive increase in gonorrhoea infections, and the detailed statistics are sobering.

According to Kathy Bell, manager of sexual health, there were 93 positive tests for gonorrhoea in 2013. By the end of 2015, that number shot up to 183.

About 66 per cent of these cases are people aged 15 to 29, and more men are testing positive than women.

Bell said part of the increase in positive tests is driven by simple math. Public health is conducting more tests, and with more tests, you are going to find more infected people.

Even with that caveat, however, the underlying reason for the increase is that people aren't careful.

"People have multiple sexual partners and aren't

using condoms," Bell said.

Gonorrhoea isn't lethal, but it sure doesn't sound like much fun. Bell said it causes serious pain, burning while urinating, and discharge from the penis and vagina. If left untreated, it can even impact your joints and heart valves.

However, you can also carry the bacteria and not show symptoms and spread it to your partner unknowingly.

The treatment involves injections of antibiotics and antibiotic pills.

If this all sounds like a high school sex ed class, well, that is because it should. And too many Niagarans didn't pay attention. It's not like prevention is difficult. Condoms are easy to use. Heck, you can even get them for free at any of the region's sexual health clinics.

As a result of what amounts to just plain stupidity, Niagara has the dubious honour of having the fifth highest rate of gonorrhoea infections in Ontario. Toronto is No. 1, Bell said, but that isn't because Torontonians are even less smart about sex than Niagarans. Toronto is the country's largest city, so you just expect to find more cases by weight of population.



And as it turns out, gonorrhoea isn't Niagara's only problem.

Bell said cases of chlamydia are also on the rise. In 2013, there were 1,117 cases, in 2014 that rose to 1,179 and by 2015 Niagara had 1,254 cases of chlamydia. That puts Niagara as having the fifth highest rate of chlamydia infections in Ontario.

I know there are many peo-

ple in Niagara who want the region to be considered No. 1, but this is absolutely not the way to do it.

No, I am certainly no prole. Follow your bliss, as they say. Just don't be a blithering moron while doing it. We've known how to prevent sexually transmitted infections for a long time now.

Still, if for some reason you remain unclear on the whole safer sex thing, or where to

go to get help or information, the public health department has some handy links online you should click:

Info on gonorrhea: www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/sexual-health/gonorrhea-in-niagara.aspx

Info on sexual health clinics: www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/sexual-health/sexual-health-centres.aspx?toptask=1v

I've been thinking about loving my neighbour

REV. THOMAS RARTH
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Summer is generally a slow time for the church — a lot of people are on vacation, including pastors.

Some churches take a pause from programs like Sunday school, Bible study, youth group and other activities. Our church even moves the worship service half an hour earlier and forgoes the after church coffee hour fellowship time so people can get to their recreation activ-

ities sooner.

But things don't necessarily calm down or quiet down for the rest of society. Over the past weeks and months we've seen the Black Lives Matter movement continue their protests to see real change in the way people of colour are treated.

Our neighbours to the south have seen more police shooting suspects of unarmed black men. They've also seen the shooting of police officers during their duty to maintain peace and safety. The political scene in the

U.S. has become typically ugly which isn't all that surprising anymore.

Overseas wars continue to rage. Terror attacks have taken place in Europe. The U.K. was thrown into turmoil as a majority of voters chose to isolate themselves by leaving the EU.

Our churches might see a quieter and slower pace, but our world isn't nearly as calm. That might just give some people cause to claim that the church isn't relevant or it's out of touch with society and what

goes on in our world.

But church and religion are not just about the programs that go on our buildings. It's about, or should be about, changed lives. It's about nurturing faith so people go from these buildings and change the world in which we all live.

John Chrysostom was a bishop in Constantinople at the end of the fourth and beginning of the fifth centuries AD. He wrote, "This is the rule of most perfect Christianity, its most exact definition, its high-

est point, namely, the seeking of the common good... for nothing can so make a person an imitator of Christ as caring for his neighbour."

I grieve to see all the turmoil, violence, fear, anger, and hate in our world. When Jesus began his ministry in Galilee he preached about the kingdom of God. This wasn't about a place. It wasn't about overthrowing the Roman rulers and setting up a theocracy in Israel. It was about living life under God's rule. It was about conversion

so that we would stop looking out only for ourselves and start looking out for one another.

Jesus was once confronted by a teacher of religious law who asked him which was the most important of all the commandments in the Hebrew scriptures. Jesus answered with a quote from the book of Deuteronomy that we are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."

Being selfish isn't religious

RELIGION from page 4

Then he continued with a quote from the book of Leviticus, saying it is equally important to "Love your neighbour as yourself."

So Jesus wasn't exactly calling for a new order for living since it has been part of God's law and teaching to the people of Israel for centuries. The problem was that they hadn't been living by those teachings. And we've had those teachings of the Hebrew Bible and of Jesus for a couple more millennia and we're not living by them either.

So, I'd say the church is still entirely relevant and entirely in touch with society and what's going on in our world as long as we continue to heed this

most important lesson of Jewish and Christian teaching. Islam also connects the love of Allah with love and responsibility to our neighbours. Virtually all the world's major religions say that you can't separate love for God from love for your neighbour. Even many or most non-religious people will agree with the Golden Rule that Jesus proclaimed — "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Religious people often talk about conversion. Often they refer to the destiny of the "soul," like a ticket to heaven when you die. Unfortunately that can lead a lot of people to smugness about their perceived destiny and becoming judgmental about everyone

else. But what if the conversion we talk about is a change from selfishness to neighbour-love? What if conversion and faith is about living and working for the common good?

We can make the world a better place if people practiced what is preached in our synagogues, churches, and mosques. We need to take those teachings and let them transform our personal lives, our family lives, our work lives, and our public lives. This neighbour-love thing is really quite radical. It goes against the "look out for yourself" lessons that society likes to teach. What can we all do for the common good?



GETTY IMAGES

A young child holds a sign aloft to support the Black Lives Matter movement.

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2016 Peach Celebration Event Schedule

Saturday, August 13 • 10 am - 7:00 pm • Queen Street • Niagara-on-the-Lake

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Sunday, August 14 • Event Schedule

10:30 AM-7:30 PM: ANNUAL St. VINCENT
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Bonus addition for Fonthill bandshell

BANDSHELL from page 3

In addition to touring worldwide, Cuba has co-written songs with such major recording artists as Nelly Furtado and Jason Mraz.

Healer, the latest album produced on his Caracol Records label, features bilingual duets with four Canadian singer-songwriters — David Myles, Kuba Oms, Alejandra Ribera, Ron Sexsmith — as well as one from the U.S., Anya Marina.

Last month Cuba performed in Ottawa as part of the Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill.

Cuba was raised in a musical family. He began playing guitar when he was six years old.

After coming to British Columbia after marrying a Canadian in Cuba, he and twin brother Adonis performed as a duo, winning a Juno.

Each launched solo careers in 2004 but the brothers continued writing songs together. Adonis co-wrote two of the songs on the award-winning *Aqua Del Pozo* album.

Thursday's two-hour concert, which



Alex Cuba.

is being presented by Sobey's in Fonthill, gets underway at 7 p.m.

Information on the concert series and clips of Cuba's music are available at <http://fonthillbandshell.com>.

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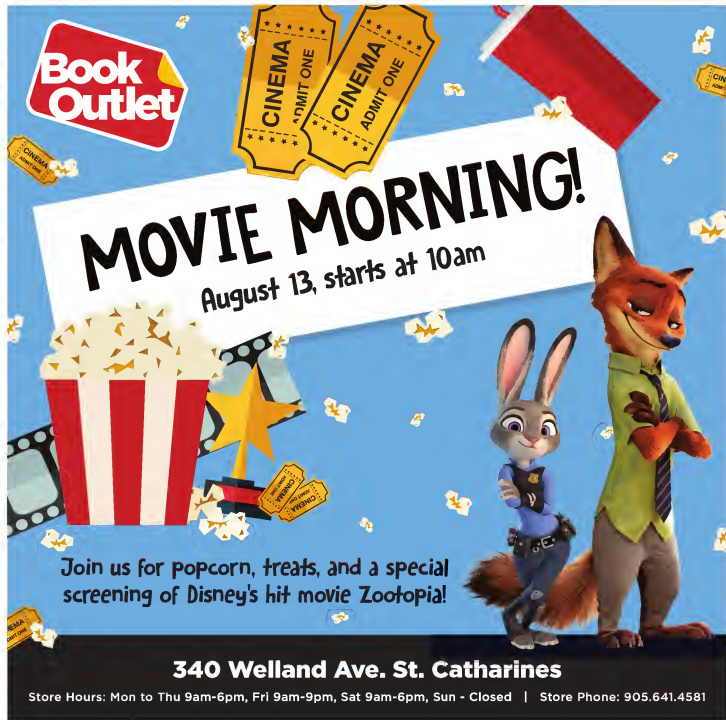
IN
BRIEF**Larmour continues
to serve Niagara**

Craig Larmour has been appointed Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's new director of community and development services.

A news release says the appointment is effective Sept. 12.

Larmour has 26 years of municipal experience, including positions with the Town of Lincoln, Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk, Township of West Lincoln and Town of Pelham.

In Pelham, he served as director of planning and development for 10 years and interim chief administrative officer for a year.



Book Outlet

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The poster features a blue background with falling popcorn. In the top left is a red 'Book Outlet' logo. Below it is a large white banner with the text 'MOVIE MORNING!' and 'August 13, starts at 10am'. To the left of the banner is a large red and white striped popcorn bucket. To the right are two yellow movie tickets that say 'CINEMA ADMIT ONE'. At the bottom right are the characters Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde from the movie Zootopia. At the bottom left is another yellow movie ticket. The bottom of the poster has a black bar with white text providing the address and store hours.



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